

Message

From: Amoroso, Cathy [Amoroso.Cathy@epa.gov]
Sent: 9/27/2021 6:29:32 PM
To: Jenkins, Brandi [Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov]
CC: Adams, Glenn [Adams.Glenn@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: EMDF Letter of Support from Community Leader in Oak Ridge TN

Hi Brandi,
Just touching base about the response. Would you like us to start drafting the response, or is that something that your office is planning to do? Is it for the RA signature or SEMD DD signature?

Thanks,

Cathy Amoroso, Chief
Restoration & DOE Coordination Section
Superfund & Emergency Management Division
U.S. EPA, Region 4
404-295-6758

-----Original Message-----

From: Chaffins, Randall <Chaffins.Randall@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 9:00 AM
To: Adams, Glenn <Adams.Glenn@epa.gov>; Amoroso, Cathy <Amoroso.Cathy@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: EMDF Letter of Support from Community Leader in Oak Ridge TN

FYI

Randall Chaffins
Deputy Director | Superfund & Emergency Management Division US Environmental Protection Agency | Region 4
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth St., SW | Atlanta, GA 30303
Office: 404-562-8910
Cell: 404-307-3076
chaffins.randall@epa.gov

Twitter: @EPASoutheast
Facebook: U.S. EPA Southeast Region
Webpage: EPA Region 4 (Southeast Region)

-----Original Message-----

From: Jenkins, Brandi <Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 4:18 PM
To: Blevins, John <Blevins.John@epa.gov>; Monell, Carol <Monell.Carol@epa.gov>; Torres, Ramon <Torres.Ramon@epa.gov>; Palmer, Leif <Palmer.Leif@epa.gov>
Cc: Chaffins, Randall <Chaffins.Randall@epa.gov>; Rubini, Suzanne <Rubini.Suzanne@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: EMDF Letter of Support from Community Leader in Oak Ridge TN

I just received notification that this letter was assigned to us for response.

Brandi

-----Original Message-----

From: Blevins, John <Blevins.John@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 1:08 PM
To: Monell, Carol <Monell.Carol@epa.gov>; Torres, Ramon <Torres.Ramon@epa.gov>; Chaffins, Randall <Chaffins.Randall@epa.gov>; Hairston, Brandi <hairston.brandy@epa.gov>; Starfield, Lawrence <Starfield.Lawrence@epa.gov>; Breen, Barry <Breen.Barry@epa.gov>; Waterhouse, Carlton <Waterhouse.Carlton@epa.gov>; Chaudhary, Dimple <Chaudhary.Dimple@epa.gov>; Palmer, Leif <Palmer.Leif@epa.gov>; Gervais, Gregory <Gervais.Gregory@epa.gov>; Leff, Karin <Leff.Karin@epa.gov>; Jenkins, Brandi <Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: EMDF Letter of Support from Community Leader in Oak Ridge TN
Importance: High

FYI...just received this

John

John Blevins

Acting Region 4 Regional Administrator
US EPA Region 4
980 College Station Road
Athens GA 30605

214-437-9810 cell
706-355-8549 office
404-562-8231 (Atlanta office number)

LSASD Mission Statement: To provide sound science to our customers through superior environmental evaluation.

LSASD Vision Statement: To be a solutions oriented organization, and seen as a leader in sound science through innovation, responsive customer service, and cutting-edge expertise.

Act with Urgency Every Day!
Sharpen the Saw!

-----Original Message-----

From: Derrick H <outlook_1FE0B3FE830878E7@outlook.com> On Behalf Of Derrick H
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 10:56 AM
To: The.Secretary@hg.doe.gov; Regan, Michael <Regan.Michael@epa.gov>
Cc: Waterhouse, Carlton <Waterhouse.Carlton@epa.gov>; Blevins, John <Blevins.John@epa.gov>; Jay.Mullins@orem.doe.gov
Subject: EMDF Letter of Support from Community Leader in Oak Ridge TN

Dear Mr. Regan and Madam Secretary:

My name is Derrick Hammond and, as pastor of Oak Valley Baptist Church, located in the historic Scarboro Community of Oak Ridge, and as an Oak Ridge City Councilman, I am writing to express my strong support for the Department of Energy's proposal to build a new onsite disposal facility on the Oak Ridge Reservation. I understand that with the current facility expected to reach full capacity in the near future, we are quickly approaching a situation that will potentially impact hundreds of jobs and the safety of the region if the record of decision is not approved in the coming months.

My perspective on this matter is broad and extensive. In addition to being a pastor and city councilman, I have a chemical engineering background and, though I do not speak for any of them, serve on the board of several organizations with a vested interest in the potential of a new disposal facility "in our back yard." These organizations include The Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Anderson County, Oak Ridge Public Schools Education Foundation, Methodist Medical Center Advisory Board and The National Issues Forum Institute (NIFI) in Washington DC. I am also heavily involved with global efforts of the Kettering Foundation to ensure "democracy works as it should" by ensuring communities have a voice in addressing key issues that affect them.

Having worked closely with such a wide range of stakeholders, I offer my support based on the following:

* There is significant potential for adverse economic impact and loss of jobs if the current facility reaches full capacity and there is no onsite option available.

Several residents of the Oak Ridge and Scarboro community are currently employed at the current onsite disposal facility - the Environmental Management Waste Management Facility (EMWMF). These citizens contribute to maintaining that facility's impeccable safety record and they take their responsibility to protect their coworkers and neighbors seriously. These men and women will also operate the proposed new disposal facility and I am certain that they will apply the same level of commitment to safety. If the new disposal facility is not constructed, our residents' livelihood will be adversely impacted, which will be detrimental to the overall quality of life in this community.

It is also worth noting that construction of the proposed disposal facility will ensure new and ongoing missions at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Y-12 National Security Complex. If the disposal facility is not approved, these missions are at risk, ultimately impacting my community, many of which are employed by ORNL or Y-12, as well.

* There is significant potential for increased community concerns about existing buildings if clean-up efforts are substantially delayed or halted.

The Department and contractor's safety record in operating the existing onsite disposal facility, the EMWMF, over the last 20 years is a strong indicator that the proposed facility can be operated safely and in a manner that minimizes potential risks to the Scarboro or surrounding communities.

If the cleanup process is significantly delayed or halted, however, the potential risk to the community can greatly increase because the hazardous buildings would remain. Citizens are just as concerned about the potential hazard of the existing buildings. So, to delay or halt the process leaves us asking, "what is the risk of these buildings standing for a longer period of time?" This is a question we do not currently worry about with ongoing cleanup.

* Efforts of the Department and contractor UCOR to engage the Scarboro community have exceeded expectations.

Before COVID, the Department and contractor UCOR had informal briefings and engagement with the Scarboro community regarding the proposed new disposal facility, and as a heavily invested leader of this community, I have come to know and trust the leadership of both entities. Even now as people are becoming more open to public gatherings, the Department and UCOR have begun organizing informal opportunities to update the community and get public input, demonstrating salient interest in community concerns and the community's well-being.

Throughout the process, they have been open about the challenges associated with site selection, Waste Acceptance Criteria, and discharge limits. I am kept up to date on cleanup progress regularly and believe that this community would be better served with the construction of the new onsite disposal facility rather than delay this critical asset. We need to have the cleanup progress continue uninterrupted to ensure that environmental risks are being addressed and that the community is not adversely impacted.

I understand there is discussion surrounding additional public comment. While I always welcome opportunities for public comment, my great hope and sincerest prayer is that any need for public comment in this situation can be mitigated in a way that does not impact the clean-up pace that citizens and community residents have become so accustomed to over the years. I am both comfortable and confident that the Department and contractor UCOR, working with the EPA and state of Tennessee, will ensure all critical risks are evaluated and minimized, even as you continue to ensure the project continues at its extraordinary pace.

In closing, I ask that you provide the necessary support and authorization to allow the Department to move forward with approval of the record of decision which will allow them to begin constructing this facility. Not only will this crucial piece of infrastructure keep the people of the region working, but it will also enhance the safety of the Scarboro community and allow cleanup projects to advance at a much faster pace - eliminating the real environmental hazards sooner and clearing land for new economic growth that benefits the community.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Rev. Derrick M. Hammond

Rev. Derrick M. Hammond, M. Div., MBA.

Pastor, Oak Valley Baptist Church

Attachment: EMDF Letter of Support, Hammond, 9-24-21.pdf

CC: Mr. Carlton Waterhouse,
Deputy Assistant Administrator for Land and Emergency Management,
Office of Land and Emergency Management
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Land and Emergency Management 5101T
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Mr. John Blevins
Acting Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303-3104

Mr. Jay Mullis
Manager
U.S. Department of Energy Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management
200 Administration Road
Oak Ridge, TN 37830